

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are pending. By this Response, claims 1 and 3 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ito, et al. (U.S. Patent No.6,529,644) in view of Hoffman (COMPCON 1995) and Hoyt, et al. (US Publication No. 2001/0011262). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ito provides a system that processes images acquired by the system via a video camera or the like. The system of Ito is configured such that a user, upon insertion of money, is able to have an image taken by a camera located on the system and then printed. See columns 3 and 4, Figs. 1-4. The system of Ito only acquires image data from a camera device.

In another embodiment of Ito, an external video input, as illustrated in step S82 of Fig. 25, is used to acquire image data. The external device is limited to a type of video device. See column 11, lines 58-67 through column 12, lines 1-26.

In contrast, the present invention as claimed, receives image data from two media types, i.e., a portable recording medium and a visible recording medium. The portable recording medium, such as disks, CD ROM, memory card, etc. allows a user the flexibility of processing any image that can be reduced onto a portable medium, instead of, as taught by Ito, an image contemporaneously taken by an

image capture device. Further, the visible recording medium allows for a user to process images that are not reduced onto a portable recording medium. This includes, film, photographs, etc. Thus, the user can process images already developed onto visible medium. Nowhere, does Ito teach or suggest using such medium types, as claimed in the present invention. As indicated above, Ito only acquires images through image capture devices.

Thus, Ito fails to teach or suggest, inter alia, a recording control unit for executing at least one of processing for recording the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit from a portable recording medium and processing for recording an image represented by the image data, which has been captured by the image capture unit, from a visible recording medium, the system comprising a hot pluggable input forward/output interface to which an input/output unit can be connected, the input/output unit able to capture said image data from one of said portable recording medium and/or said visible recording medium, as recited in claims 1 and 3.

Further, Hoffman and Hoyt fail to make up for the deficiencies of Ito. Hoffman is used merely to disclose the application of a hot plug such as the IEEE 1394. Hoffman does not teach or suggest utilizing a device as claimed having the capability of processing portable recording medium and visible recording medium.

Further, Hoyt teaches a system similar to that of Ito. Hoyt teaches a photo booth in which a user is able to have his or her picture taken and processed. The

user can then obtain a printed photograph of the image taken of the user. Nowhere does Hoyt teach or suggest processing image data provided by a user in one of a portable recording medium and/or a visible recording medium as claimed by applicants.

In view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Ito, Hoffman and Hoyt fail to teach each and every feature of the claimed invention as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

#### Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 are distinguishable over the cited art. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Appl. No. 09/628,003

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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Attachment(s)

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